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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 David Robinson,
11 Plaintiff,
12 v.
13 Market Town, LLC,
14 Defendant.

Case No.

**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

Jury Trial Demanded

16 David Robinson (“Plaintiff”) alleges the following:

17 **INTRODUCTION**

18 1. Plaintiff brings this action against Defendant Market Town, LLC (“Defendant”), for
19 unlawfully discriminating against Plaintiff because of Plaintiff’s disability at the Deli & Liquor (“Deli
20 & Liquor”) located at 1655 Tennessee Street in Vallejo, California (“Property”).

21 2. Plaintiff seeks damages, injunctive, and declaratory relief, attorney’s fees and costs
22 pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”) and related California law.

23 **PARTIES**

24 3. Plaintiff is a natural person and an adult resident of the San Francisco Bay Area. At all
25 times relevant to this Complaint, Plaintiff is and has been considered disabled.

26 4. Defendant Market Town, LLC is a California limited liability company with its
27 principal office in Vallejo, California. Defendant owned, managed, operated, or was otherwise
28 responsible for the Property and the Deli & Liquor.

JURISDICTION

5. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1331 and 1343 for violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

6. Pursuant to supplemental jurisdiction, an attendant and related cause of action, arising from the same nucleus of operative facts and arising out of the same transactions, is also brought under California law.

VENUE

7. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1391 and is founded on the fact that the Property and the Deli & Liquor are located inside this district and Plaintiff's claims arose in this district.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

8. Plaintiff suffers from disabilities, and/or medical conditions that are disabilities.

9. Plaintiff is a paraplegic due to a tragic motorcycle accident.

10. Plaintiff requires a wheelchair to facilitate his mobility because of a spinal cord injury.

11. Plaintiff's symptoms substantially limit his major life activities.

12. Plaintiff has at all relevant times, displayed a valid disabled person parking placard issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

13. Plaintiff's lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, not far from the Property.

14. On October 17, 2023, Plaintiff personally visited the Deli & Liquor located at 1655 Tennessee Street in Vallejo, California. Plaintiff was going to the liquor store to purchase a snack and a beverage.

15. At the Property, Plaintiff encountered the following accessibility barriers:

- i. Permitter of the handicap parking space access aisle was not outlined with blue striping.
- ii. The handicap parking space access aisle had too steep of slopes, which are alleged to be greater than 2%.

iii. The handicap parking space signs were not visible because they are covered with graffiti.

16. Moreover, while Plaintiff did not personally encounter these additional accessibility

1 barriers, Plaintiff is informed and believed that the following exist:

- 2 i. The path of travel from the public way to the entry door has too steep of cross slopes,
3 which are greater than 2%.
- 4 ii. The path of travel from the accessible parking space has wide gaps that are greater than
5 a half-inch wide
- 6 iii. The path of travel have challenging changes in level as it is greater than a half inch.
- 7 iv. The sales counter is too high as it is higher than 34 inches above the floor.

8 17. Plaintiff would like to return to Property and the Deli & Liquor in the future as it is a
9 convenient location for Plaintiff to purchase food and drinks.

10 18. Plaintiff has decided not to go back to the Deli & Liquor at least once because of his
11 personal knowledge of the accessibility barriers at the Property and Deli & Liquor.

12 19. The Deli & Liquor and Property are public accommodations and business
13 establishments.

14 20. The Deli & Liquor and Property are open to the public and their operation affects
15 commerce.

16 21. Deli & Liquor and the Property has undergone construction and/or alterations, structural
17 repairs, or additions since July 1, 1970 and/or July 1, 1982.

18 22. Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer violations of his civil rights to full and
19 equal enjoyment of goods, services, facilities, and privileges, and has suffered and will suffer negative
20 feelings.

21 23. Ensuring that a deli and liquor store are free from accessibility barriers is crucial for
22 making them inclusive for individuals with disabilities. Without clear blue striping around the
23 perimeter of handicap parking space access aisles, those who need these spaces might struggle to locate
24 and safely use them. Moreover, others may inadvertently block them when parking their vehicles. Steep
25 slopes greater than 2% in parking areas and on paths of travel can also pose significant mobility
26 challenges, making it unsafe or impossible for individuals in wheelchairs or with other mobility aids to
27 access the store. Similarly, obscured handicap parking signs due to graffiti can lead to confusion and
28 hinder the use of necessary parking spaces, leaving disabled patrons unsure of whether a parking spot

has been designed and maintained to be accessible as well as risking non-disabled persons taking the parking spot that is no longer clearly designated as restricted to disabled persons.

24. In addition, paths of travel with steep cross slopes or wide gaps can create hazardous conditions for wheelchair users, potentially causing accidents or barring access altogether. Uneven paths with significant changes in level add to these challenges, making navigation difficult and risky. Furthermore, a sales counter that is too high can be inaccessible for individuals in wheelchairs, impeding their ability to shop independently and engage in transactions.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act

42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.

25. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the previous paragraphs as if they had been fully stated herein.

26. Defendant has denied Plaintiff full and equal enjoyment and use of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, and accommodations of the Deli & Liquor and the Property.

27. The Deli & Liquor is a public accommodation.

28. The Property is a public accommodation.

Failure to Remove Architectural Barriers at an Existing Property

29. Defendant failed to remove architectural barriers, which are structural in nature, where it is reasonably achievable, without much difficulty or expense, and the cost of removing the architectural barriers does not exceed the benefits under these particular circumstances.

30. For those barriers where it is not reasonably achievable to remove them, if any, Defendant failed to make the goods, services, facilities, or accommodations available through alternative methods that are readily achievable.

Failure to Design and Construct an Accessible Property

31. The improvements at the Property are believed to have been designed and constructed, or both, after January 26, 1993, independently triggering access requirements under Title III of the ADA.

32. Defendant violated the ADA by failing to design and construct the facilities at the

1 Property in a manner that was readily accessible to the physically disabled public, including Plaintiff,
2 when it was structurally practical to do so.

3 Failure to Make an Altered Facility Accessible

4 33. Plaintiff alleges that the Property was modified after January 26, 1993, independently
5 triggering access requirements under the ADA.

6 34. The ADA requires properties altered in a manner that affects or could affect its usability
7 be made easily accessible to individuals with disabilities to the maximum extent feasible. 42 U.S.C. §
8 12183(a)(2).

9 35. Defendant altered the Property in a manner that violated the ADA and was not readily
10 accessible to the physically disabled public – including Plaintiff – the maximum extent possible.

11 36. The configuration and condition of the Property denied Plaintiff a public
12 accommodation due to Plaintiff's disability.

13 37. It is readily achievable for Defendant to remove the architectural barriers.

14 Failure to Maintain Accessible Features

15 38. Defendant violated the ADA by failing to maintain in operable and working condition
16 those features of the Deli & Liquor and Property that are required to be readily accessible to and be
17 usable by persons with disabilities.

18 39. Defendant's failure in maintaining the Deli & Liquor and Property in an accessible
19 condition was not an isolated or temporary interruption in service or access due to maintenance or
20 repairs.

21 40. The configuration and condition of the Deli & Liquor and Property denied Plaintiff a
22 public accommodation due to Plaintiff's disability.

23 41. It is readily achievable for Defendant to remove the barriers.

24 42. Defendant does not have any legitimate business justification to excuse the condition
25 and configuration of the Deli & Liquor and Property.

26 43. Defendant's violations are the cause of suffering for Plaintiff.

27 44. Plaintiff prays for all relief available under the ADA, including injunctive relief that
28 prohibits violations complained of herein, which have the effect of wrongfully excluding Plaintiff and

1 other members of the public who are physically disabled from full and equal access to these public
2 facilities, as well as attorney's fees, costs, and other expenses for these violations.

3 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 Violations of the Unruh Civil Rights Act

5 California Civil Code §§ 51-53

6 45. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the previous paragraphs as if they had been fully stated
7 herein.

8 46. The Deli & Liquor and the Property are business establishments.

9 47. As described above, Defendant intentionally discriminated against Plaintiff during
10 Plaintiff's visit to the Deli & Liquor at the Property.

11 48. The Unruh Act provides that a violation of the ADA is a violation of the Unruh Act.
12 Cal. Civ. Code 51(f).

13 49. Defendant violated the ADA during Plaintiff's visit to Deli & Liquor at the Property.

14 50. Defendant's acts and omissions as specified are in violation of California Civil Code §§
15 51 and 51.5, the Unruh Civil Rights Act, and have denied Plaintiff's right to "full and equal
16 accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges or services in all business establishments of every
17 kind whatsoever."

18 51. Plaintiff was harmed.

19 52. Defendant's conduct was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's harm.

20 53. As a result of the violation of Plaintiffs civil rights protected by California Civil Code
21 §§ 51 and 51.5, Plaintiff is entitled to the rights and remedies of California Civil Code § 52, including
22 a trebling of actual damages, minimum statutory damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and
23 costs, as allowed by statute, according to proof.

24 54. Plaintiff also seeks to enjoin Defendant from violating disabled persons' rights.

25 **PRAYER**

26 Plaintiff hereby prays for the following:

27 1. Injunctive relief compelling Defendant to cease its discrimination of disabled persons
28 and remove all accessibility barriers that relate to Plaintiff's disability;

- 1 2. Damages under the Unruh Civil Rights Act of no less than \$25,000;
2 3. Attorney's fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 12205, Civil Code sections 52, and/or Code of
3 Civil Procedure section 1021.5, expenses, and costs of suit;
4 4. Other relief that the court deems appropriate.

5 Dated: January 4, 2024

Law Office of Rick Morin, PC

Rick M

7 Richard Morin
8 Attorney for Plaintiff

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